

BOROUGH OF BECCLES

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Charles Rees Smith, M.D., D.P.H.)

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The Mayor Aldermen and Councillors of
The Borough of Beccles.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year

1925.

General Statistics.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,037
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,039
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,771
Number of Families	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,773
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£32,407
Penny Rate Produces	...	...	...	...	...	...	£127

Vital Statistics

Births	...	...	90	{ Legitimate		$\frac{M}{51}$	$\frac{F}{37}$
				{ Illegitimate		$\frac{M}{1}$	$\frac{F}{1}$
Birth Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	...	12. 8	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{M}{44}$	$\frac{F}{43}$
Death Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	...	...	12. 2	
Deaths of Infants under one Year	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{M}{2}$	$\frac{F}{1}$
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	33.3 per 1,000 Births		
Rates for England and Wales	{ Birth		...	...	18.3 per 1000		
	{ Death		...	...	12.2 "		
	{ Infantile Mortality		...	...	75 "		

Notifiable Diseases

	<u>Cases Notified</u>		<u>Deaths</u>
Diphtheria	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	24	0
Enteric Fever	...	4	0
Erysipelas	...	6	0
Tuberculosis	{ Pulmonary	{ M	7
	{ Non-Pulmonary	{ F	3
Dysentery	{	{ M	1
	{	{ F	0
	...	0	0





B O R O U G H O F B E C C L E S

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Vital Statistics

						<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Births	90	{ Legitimate	51		37
				{ Illegitimate	1		1
Birth Rate per 1,000		12. 8	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	44	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
						44	43
Death Rate per 1,000	...	..	...	...		12. 2	
Deaths of Infants under one Year	...	...	...	...	2	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
						2	1
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	33.3	per 1,000 Births	
Rates for England and Wales	{	Birth	...	...	18.3	per 1000	
						"	
						"	
	{	Death	...	...	12.2		
	{	Infantile Mortality	75				

Notifiable Diseases

				<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0
Scarlet Fever	.	...	...	24	0
Enteric Fever	.	...	...	4	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6	0
Tuberculosis	{	Pulmonary	{	5	7
				5	3
				3	1
Dysentery	{	Non-Pulmonary	{	1	0
				0	0

HOSPITAL AND NURSING FACILITIES

Beccles and District War Memorial Hospital provides accomodation for 22 Patients, and is now in full running order. An up-to-date X Ray apparatus for diagnosis and treatment and an Arc Lamp for artificial Sunlight treatment during the winter have been fitted.

Nursing is provided by the Beccles Nursing Association which is under the control of a Voluntary Committee. The Staff consists of a Sister and two Nurses all of whom hold the C.M.B. Certificate. The Nurses work under the direction of the Medical Practitioners in the Town.

The Town Council undertake to pay the maintenance charges in the Beccles Hospital of cases of enteric fever sent there on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

24 Cases, an increase of 12 from last year.

The majority of the cases were of little severity.

Except in the larger and better class houses no adequate isolation is possible, and the larger number of cases must be partly attributed to this cause.

TUBERCULOSIS

14 Fresh cases were notified during the year which number brings the total cases of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis to 67 - an increase from last year of 12.

ENTERIC FEVER

4 cases - last year 8. 1 case admitted to Beccles Hospital on account of severity of type. The Council undertake to defray the cost of any patient admitted on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health.

DYSENTERY

Nil.

Cases.- Last year 6.

ADMINISTRATION AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

A large number of inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself during the past year.

These investigations resulted in 35 informal and 2 statutory notices being served. The works required by the notices were duly executed.

The Water Supply is from the Company's Works in Puddingmoor. The Water is analysed annually and always found to be pure and contains a considerable degree of hardness.

Three wells were condemned as unfit during the year and the property concerned was connected with the Company's supply.

DISINFECTIONS

There were 32 rooms disinfected after infectious disease.

FOOD

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The Chief Constable arranges for samples to be taken periodically and also by arrangement in special cases.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution of the River Waveney has been noted during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Town is drained on the separate system in Storm Water draining

to the River and Sewerage to the Sewerage Pumping Station. The system has proved efficient and no complaints have been received. An extension of the sewer in St. Annes Road and St. Georges Road is contemplated.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION

There are an exceptionally small number of privys and earth closets in the Town and during the coming year an extension of the sewer along St. Annes Road and St. George's Road will cause a further reduction in the number.

SCAVENGING

Galvanised iron Dust Bins with close fitting lids are in general use through-out the Town, and the collection of refuse therein is regularly and satisfactorily carried out.

The method of cleansing earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools in the Town is all that can be desired.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

This work continues to make steady progress:-

	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
Average weekly attendance	29	42	44	45
New cases during the year	24	51	80	87

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1925

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	15
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts	Nil
(1) By the Local Authority	
(11) By other bodies or persons	12

1. UNFIT DWELLINGHOUSES

Inspection:-

(1) Total number of Dwellinghouses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Housing Acts)	64
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925.	10
(3) Number of Dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of Dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	37

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	35
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | Nil |
| (2) Number of Dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close. | Nil |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | 2 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. | Nil |

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act 1925

Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5			1		1			
10				1				
15			1					
20	1	3						
25	1		1		2			
35	2	1			3	1		
45	1	1			1			
55						1		
65 & upwards					1	1		
Totals	5	5	3	1	8	3	-	-

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
Factories	2		
Workshops	47	3	Nil.
Total	49	3	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Number of defects Remedied</u>
Want of cleanliness	3	3

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. R. SMITH.

Medical Officer of Health.

